Office of the City Manager Letter to Commission No. 126-2005



To:

Mayor David Dermer and

Members of the City Commission

Date: May 16, 2005

From:

Jorge M. Gonzalez

City Manager

Subject:

Status Report of Pine Tree Bark Park

The following status report is supplemental to the discussion of the above subject scheduled to be held at the May 18, 2005, Commission meeting.

The Pine Tree Bark Park is currently under renovation by the Parks and Recreation's Green Space Management Division. To date the following work has been completed:

- Completed structural pruning of the large Ficus Tree adjacent to the West section on May 5, 2005.
- Irrigation assessment and repairs were completed on May 12, 2005.
- Two new automatic canine water fountains with wash-down hoses were installed on April 25, 2005.
- Completed a damage assessment of the entire perimeter fence on May 12, 2005.
- The entrance sidewalk was pressure cleaned May 11, 2005.
- A sod/mulch replacement estimate was prepared.

The remaining work listed below is anticipated to be completed no later than the end of May, 2005:

- Repairs to the perimeter fence including the gate replacement at the mid section of the Bark Park.
- Re-grade of the site to level the area.
- Installation of sod in the areas that receive sun.
- Install mulch in the shade areas and around the perimeter of the Bark Park.
- Reinstall trash receptacle onto concrete base.
- Adjust irrigation to water the sod without creating muddy conditions.

The Parks & Recreation Department is working with the Police Department to relocate the K-9 training compound presently located in the north end of the park. It is the ultimate goal to establish two separate areas in the park, one for the smaller dogs (under 20 pounds) and the other for larger dogs (20 pounds and over).

Presently the approval of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is being requested to move the K-9 compound to an area near the Julia Tuttle Causeway. If this relocation is accomplished, the existing K-9 area will be renovated to mirror the South end Bark Park. This renovation will be completed approximately 30 days following the relocation of the K-9 compound.

As you may recall, in early 2004, the Administration had initiated discussions concerning a conceptual plan to substantially expand the area of the dog compound(s) in Pine Tree Park based on the requests of dog owners and in particular a resident who had offered a donation to complete the work. The concept was presented to residents of the Orchard Park and Pine Tree Neighborhoods on April 19, 2004, and based on residents comments, it was concluded that the dog park should not be enhanced or expanded. However, it was expressed that the laws related to dogs in the park should be enforced.

In an effort to better serve our residents who have dogs, the Parks and Recreation Department recently completed the renovation of the Flamingo Bark Park. In addition, since the beginning of this fiscal year, the Parks and Recreation Department has purchased and dispensed over 160,000 pooper scooper bags throughout the City's parks and throughout Lincoln Road and distributed over 1,500 informational pieces advising residents of the Pooper Scooper laws and encouraging dog owners to clean up after their pets. (See attached copy of the flyer).

Please feel free to contact me if you need any additional information or if you have any questions.

JMG\RCM\

c: Robert C. Middaugh, Assistant City Manager Kevin Smith, Parks & Recreation Director

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